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Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

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To access these Tip Sheets, please visit www.childcareresourcesinc.org or call Child Care Search at 704-348-2181 to speak with a Parent Counselor.

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Top 10 Tips for a Better ERS Assessment

- 1** *Read the Environmental Rating Scale* (ECERS-R, ITERS-R) for your class's age group.
- 2** *Reduce waiting time.* Ensure children spend most of their time playing and working with materials or other children. They should not be wandering aimlessly, and should not be expected to sit quietly for long periods of time (lunch time and bathroom breaks).
- 3** *Talk to the children.* Teachers should be interacting with the children as they play asking questions and having enjoyable conversations.
- 4** *Children should have the opportunity to be in different groups throughout the day.* Teachers should be working with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group. Children should have access to various activities throughout the day. Children should not all be doing the same thing at the same time.
- 5** *Display.* The classroom should be decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and stories dictated by children to teachers, pictures of families and pictures representing different occupations, genders, ages and races.
- 6** *Teacher's time should be well spent before or after...* Teachers should be focused on the children at all times, not on unrelated tasks.
- 7** *Be a good role model.* Be sure your actions and words are what you want the children to see and hear. If you want the children to speak softly, then speak softly to them. Watch out for food and drinks in the classroom, keeping snacks and sodas for the teacher's lounge and breaks.
- 8** *Label materials.* Have plenty of materials in all learning centers and be sure shelves are labeled with pictures and words so children can use and return them independently.
- 9** *Sanitizing materials/equipment*
 - Wash and sanitize tables/feeding trays immediately before eating. If the table becomes recontaminated, wash and sanitize again. Clean again after eating.
 - Wash and sanitize toys regularly – several times a day for infants and toddlers.
 - Wash bedding daily for infants and toddlers, weekly for preschoolers.
 - Wash pillows and soft toys whenever soiled.
 - Clean shelves and storage containers at least once a week.
- 10** *Hand Washing*
 - Upon entering classroom and before joining an activity.
 - When moving from one classroom to another as in early morning combined groups.
 - Immediately before eating- rewash if hands touch anything
 - Before and after sensory and water play
 - When re-entering classroom from an outdoor activity
 - After having nose wiped or wiping own nose. This applies both inside and outside. It also applies to other bodily fluids.
 - After toileting and diapering – wipes for children who cannot hold heads up only (usually 0-3 months)
 - After messy play
 - After handling pets and animals
 - Use common sense – wash hands anytime there could be a possibility of contamination.